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REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 29 August 2003 has been reviewed, and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered. Claims 1, 12 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 6-8, 14 and 16-18 are currently amended, claims 2, 3, 11, 13 and 19 were previously presented, and claims 4, 5 and 10 remain as originally filed. Thus, claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 16-19 are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show the "mounting member" recited in claims 16-19. And claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to describe the "mounting member" in the specification. These objections and rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments to claims 16-18 and in view of the following comments. Claims 16-18 have been amended for consistency with Applicants' specification and drawings as originally filed. In particular, the member to which the electrical component member is connected is now recited as the "module member." Support for this recitation may be found, for example, in Applicants' specification at page 4, lines 26-27, and in Applicants' Figure 4, which shows electrical component member 26 connected to an automotive exhaust gas recirculation system module 40.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' drawings show an exemplary module member, and that Applicants' specification describes an exemplary module member. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections should be withdrawn and that claims 16-19 are allowable. It is noted that claim 16 has also been amended, purely for consistency within the claim and not for any reason related to patentability, insofar as the term "member" has been deleted.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following comments.

Antecedent support for the recitation in claims 1, 2 and 11-13 of "the first member" and "the second member" is respectfully submitted to be found in the recitation of "a first one of the male and female members" and "a second one of the male and female members."

Applicants' respectfully traverse the assertion in the Office Action that "[o]nly a line can be parallel to axis and a line, or a surface can be parallel to a plane." It is respectfully submitted

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that both assertions are fundamentally incorrect and that the Office Action fails to provide any basis that supports these assertions. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has misinterpreted the claim language in making the assertion that, because "[t]he projections and the grooves have three dimensions," then "[i]t is not clear what portion of the projections or the groove is parallel to the axis or the plane." In particular, it appears that the Office Action is misinterpreting the claim language as reciting that projections or grooves, *per se*, are parallel to axes or planes, whereas claims 2, 11, 13 and 16 recite that a projection or a groove extend parallel to a plane or an axis.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are in error and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 2-5, 11, 13 and 14 recite allowable subject matter. In view of the aforementioned comments rebutting the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6-10, 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by European Patent No. 0 415 489 to Du Pont De Nemours (Moussie). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments canceling claims 1, 12 and 15, in view of the above amendments revising the dependency of claims 6-8 and 14, and in view of the following comments.

Claims 1, 12 and 15 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, solely for the purposes of expediting prosecution of the present application. Of course, Applicants preserve the right to further pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application filed during the pendency of the present application.

The dependency of claims 6-8 and 14 has been amended to one of allowable independent claims 2 and 13, respectively, and these dependent claims are also respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additionally recited features that further distinguish over Moussie. Claims 9 and 10 ultimately depend from allowable independent claim 2 and are also respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 2, as well as for the additionally recited features that further distinguish over Moussie.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of pending claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 16-19.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this reply, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,
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